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Several Remarks Concerning the Work of Sanitary-Epidemiological Councils at the Sanitary-Epidemiological Stations.

by 7. K. Viazhevich - of the Novosibirek Oblast Sanitary-Epidemiological Station,

Hygiene and Sanitation (USSR). 23: 11: 71: 1958.

The article of Dr. S. V. Pevzner, "Sanitary-Epidemiological Councils in the Work System of the Sanitary-Epidemiological Stations." (1), shows in sufficient detail the activity of the Sanitary-Epidemio. Great Council in the Novosibirsk Oblast Sanit.-Epid. station.

In his work, however, are also found inadequacies.

First, several remarks concerning the conduct of the meetings of the sanit.-epid. councils. Into it are usually injected many problems, the number of which amount to 10-15. Naturally, with such a large quantity of problems, there is practically no time left for an exchange of opinions and proposals, and this means that there will be little or no constructive proposals.

Consequently, for the conduct of any meeting of the sanit.-epid. council there must be allowed no more than 2-3 problems, which have been well prepared by those reporting. The fruitfulness of the meetings of the council is dependent on the participation in it of the specialists of a close medical cross-section (therapists, neuropathologists, pediatricians, surgeons, oculists, etc.). Their participation helps significantly to deepen the questions being considered, to find the continuity in the work, and chiefly, to speed the search for rational ways and means of conducting one measure or another. There is no doubt as to the necessity of the scientific workers' participation in the work of the councils.

The expediency of inviting specialists of non-medical establishments, who are interested in some question, for participation in the work of the sanit.—epid. council creates serious controversies. The fact of the matter is, unfortunately, that the sanit.—epid. councils have not yet become an authoritative organ for the other services, and therefore they do not consider it their duty to send representatives for participation in their work. The attraction of specialists of a non-medical profile to participate in the work of the sanit.—epid. councils in in principal necessary and important, and must become the next step on the way to improving their work.

The lack of authority of the sanit.-epid. councils is explained occasionally by a lack of ability of the medical workers to prompt, because of a weak knowledge of the local situation, and to hold out in a dispute of a proposal having to do with the assigned task. As a result, the discussion comes to mutual recriminations over the insufficient activity, or takes an aimless character.

Therefore, when a complexity in the work of the sanit.-opid. councils is resolved, first amongst the medical specialists of various profile, then the next step will be the resolvement of the complexity in the work with the other nonmedical establishments.

Experience in conducting the meetings of the sanit.-spid. councils attests to the fact that they should be held in March-April, June-July, October-November, that is, in the periods of the medical workers least activity in servicing the great agricultural works, in the processing of the yearly accounts, etc.

(1) - Hygiene and Sanitation. 1956. No 6.